

Message Text

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OF PRE-CHRISTMAS SPECIAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION.

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1. SUMMARY: AS THE SPECIAL PRE-CHRISTMAS "MINI-SESSION" OF THE QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DRAWS TO A CLOSE, PREMIER LEVESQUE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCLOSE THAT HIS PREDECESSOR HAD ESTABLISHED A "SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE" AND TO DEFEND HIS GOVERNMENT'S BILL 82 WHICH FORCES MONTREAL TO PAY 214 MILLION DOLLAR SHARE OF OLYMPIC DEBT. LEVESQUE SAID BOURASSA'S SERVICE HELD FILES ON 30,000 INDIVIDUALS AND 6,000 ORGANIZATIONS. FILES WERE GATHERED FROM ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES BUT NOT BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. LEVESQUE SAID THE FUTURE OF THE FILES AS WELL AS THE "SERVICE" WERE UNDER STUDY BUT INDICATED HE WOULD PREFER TO DESTROY BOTH. THE PREMIER SAID GOQ IS PAYING 80 PERCENT OF OLYMPIC DEFICIT BUT CITY WILL EVENTUALLY GET FACILITIES, THEREFORE TAX IS FAIR. HE CONCLUDED HE WAS DOING WHAT PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HAD RECOMMENDED BUT DID NOT HAVE COURAGE TO DO. GOVERNMENT USED MINI-SESSION, WHICH SHOULD WIND UP BEFORE
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CHRISTMAS DESPITE FILIBUSTER OVER LEGISLATION ON MONTREAL TAX, TO TACKLE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE PROBLEMS REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. MOST DELICATE PROBLEM HAS BEEN LAW 22 WHERE EDUCATION MINISTER JACQUES-YVAN MORIN EXACERBATED ITALO-QUEBECOIS AGAIN BY CONTINUING TO TEST YOUNG CHILDREN FOR ENTRY INTO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS EVEN WHILE CAMILLE LAURIN,

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, WAS KILLING "FRANCIZATION" REQUIREMENTS OF SAME LAW PENDING NEW AND TOUGHER REGULATIONS. COMMENT TO FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.

2. IN HIS FIRST MONTHLY PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, PREMIER LEVESQUE REVEALED THAT A "SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE" CREATED BY FORMER PREMIER BOURASSA HOLDS FILES ON 30,000 CITIZENS (MAINLY TEACHERS, UNION LEADERS, JOURNALISTS, AND POLITICIANS). THE SERVICE, KNOWN AS THE CENTRE D ANALYSE ET DOCUMENTATION (CAD) WAS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO BOURASSA'S POLITICAL STAFF. IT ALSO KEPT DOSSIER'S ON SOME 6,000 ORGANIZATIONS, LEVESQUE REVEALED. HE ADDED THAT FILES IN CAD CONTAINED INFORMATION GLEANED FROM POLICE RECORDS, CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE FILES AND PUBLIC RECORDS. FILES DO NOT CONTAIN PRIVATE, PERSONAL INFORMATION, HOWEVER, NOR WERE THEY COLLECTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. OPPOSITION LEADER AND FORMER LIBERAL JUSTICE MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF CAD FILES. PREMIER LEVESQUE SAID THE FUTURE OF CAD AND THE FILES WERE UNDER STUDY BUT HE PROMISED THAT IF THE FILES ARE NOT DESTROYED (AS LEVESQUE HIMSELF WOULD PREFER), INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEE AND CORRECT THE INFORMATION THEY CONTAIN. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A, THERE ARE SOME PQ MEMBERS WHO WANT LEVESQUE TO CONTINUE THE CAD OR ESTABLISH A SIMILAR ORGANIZATION. SINCE THE PARTI QUEBECOIS WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF IAD WHILE IN THE OPPOSITION, LEVESQUE WAS UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO RELEASE RESULTS OF WHAT PQ FOUND UPON ASSUMING POWER. YESTERDAY'S REMARKS DID JUST THAT.

3. DEFENDING HIS GOVERNMENT'S BILL TO MAKE MONTREAL PAY A 214 MILLION DOLLAR SHARE OF OLYMPIC DEFICIT (SEE REFTEL B),
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LEVESQUE TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IT WAS MORE THAN FAIR FOR MONTREALERS WHO "DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED" THE DRAPEAU ADMINISTRATION TO PAY THE SUM. HE SAID GOQ IS PAYING 80 PERCENT OF THE DEFICIT BUT THE CITY WILL EVENTUALLY GET THE OLYMPIC FACILITIES ONCE THEY ARE COMPLETED AND THE DEFICIT IS PAID OFF. LEVESQUE PROMISED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE MORE TO SAY SOON ON OTTAWA'S REFUSAL TO HELP WITH DEFICIT. HE SAID HIS BILL IS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS MEASURES RECOMMENDED LAST AUGUST BY FORMER MINISTERS GARNEAU AND GOLDBLOOM. LEVESQUE ADDED RECORDS SHOWED THOSE TWO LIBERALS HAD ALSO PROPOSED THAT CONTROLS BE IMPOSED ON CITY'S SPENDING SO THAT IT COULD MAINTAIN ITS CREDIT RATING AND NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN PROJECTS SIMILAR TO OLYMPICS IN FUTURE. HE CONCLUDED THAT BOURASSA GOVERNMENT "DID NOT HAVE THE COURAGE" TO ADOPT GARNEAU AND GOLDBLOOM'S PROPOSALS. THE PREMIER CONCEDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO IMPOSE CONTROL'S ON THE CITY'S SPENDING EVEN WHILE DENYING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS OBEYING AMERICAN FINANCIERS. HE ALSO CONCEDED THAT NOT EXPLAINING SUFFICIENTLY THIS NEED FOR THE BILL MAY "HAVE BEEN AN ERROR"

ON PART OF GOVERNMENT. THIS IS SOMEWHAT OF AN UNDERSTATEMENT SINCE THE BILL HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AND IS STILL BEING FILIBUSTERED AS THIS IS WRITTEN. MINI-SESSION OF ASSEMBLY WAS SCHEDULED TO ADJOURN TO DAY BUT FILIBUSTER COULD DRAG ON THROUGH DECEMBER 24, OR LATER. BILL SHOULD PASS, HOWEVER.

4. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN BUSY DURING MINI-SESSION CLEANING UP ADMINISTRATIVE AS WELL AS LEGISLATIVE MATTERS REMAINING FROM LIBERAL GOVERNMENT. JUSTICE MINISTER MARC-ANDRE BEDARD ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ABOLISHING THE PRACTICE OF AWARDED LEGAL WORK ON BASIS OF LOYALTY TO THE PARTY IN POWER. HENCEFORTH, HE TOLD THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, GOVERNMENT CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES WILL BE HANDLED BY A STAFF OF LAWYERS AND NOTARIES ON THE PERMANENT PUBLIC SERVICE PAYROLL. WHILE IN THE OPPOSITION, PQ HAD COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT LIBERAL USE OF LAWYERS ACCORDING TO DEGREE OF LOYALTY TO LIBERAL PARTY.

5. OTHER THAN MONTREAL AND OLYMPIC DEBT, MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR GOQ DURING MINI-SESSION WAS WHAT TO DO WITH LAW 22. THAT LAW - THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT - WAS ADOPTED IN 1974. IT MADE FRENCH THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF QUEBEC. THE PQ - THEN THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION - WANTED FRENCH TO BE THE ONLY RPT ONLY OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN QUEBEC. THE PQ IS NOW IN A POSITION TO REINFORCE FRENCH AS ONLY OFFICIAL WORKING LANGUAGE. REFTEL C DETAILS THE IMPORTANCE FRENCH WAS GIVEN AT DECEMBER 14 OPENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. LEVESQUE HAS STATED THAT A REVISION OF THE LANGUAGE ACT WILL BE FORTHCOMING. CAMILLE LAURIN, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, HAS BEEN GIVEN TO FEBRUARY 15 TO PROPOSE REVISIONS THAT WOULD MAKE FRENCH A USEFUL, PROFITABLE AND NECESSARY LANGUAGE FOR ALL QUEBECERS.

6. OPERATIONALLY, PQ GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY HAD DIFFICULTIES IN LANGUAGE DOMAIN. DESPITE HIS CAMPAIGN STANCE AGAINST TESTING YOUNG CHILDREN, EDUCATION MINISTER JACQUE-YVAN MORIN ANNOUNCED THAT 250 AS YET UNTESTED CHILDREN WILL HAVE TO FACE A LANGUAGE TEST TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR ENGLISH SCHOOLS. EVEN THOUGH 920 CHILDREN ILLEGALLY IN ENGLISH SCHOOLS WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAY AND NOTWITHSTANDING QUEBEC PUBLIC PROTECTOR LUCE PATENAUDE'S DECISION THAT TESTING WAS NOT DISCRIMINATORY, ITALO-CANADIANS ARE VERY UNHAPPY WITH MORIN'S DECISION. MORIN SAID THAT HE HAD TO ENFORCE THE LAW UNTIL REVISIONS COULD BE MADE DURING FULL ASSEMBLY SESSION STARTING IN FEBRUARY. WKIT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL IMMIGRANT CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE WILL BE ENROLLED IN FRENCH SCHOOLS.) HIS REASONING BECAME QUESTIONABLE WHEN CAMILLE LAURIN ANNOUNCED THAT ALL REGULATIONS GOVERNING "FRANCIZATION" OF BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WERE CANCELLED PENDING INTRODUCTION OF TOUGHER MEASURES AIMED PARTICULARLY AT INCREASING PRESENCE OF FRANCOPHONES IN TOP MANAGEMENT LEVELS. NEW LAW AND

REGULATIONS, LAURIN SAID, WILL "ELIMINATE THE REMAINING PREJUDICES, RESISTANCE AND CUSTOMS WHICH BLOCK THE FULL AFFIRMATION OF FRANCOPHONES IN ECONOMIC WORLD." WHATEVER, HIS SHORT-TERM RULING - TO AVOID CHANGING THE RULES IN MID-GAME ONCE NEW LAW IS ADOPTED IN SPRING - WAS JUST THE OPPOSITE OF MORIN'S.

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7. IN OTHER AREAS, ASSEMBLY HAS FOLLOWED PROGRAM DETAILED IN THRONE SPEECH (REFTEL C) PASSING VARIOUS FINANCIAL LEGISLATION AND AMENDING PROVINCE S LEGISLATURE ACT TO ALLOW UNION NATIONALE RECOGNITION AS AN OFFICIAL PARTY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. OFFICIAL STATUS GIVES UN GREATER PRIVILEGES IN ASSEMBLY DEBATE AND ADDITIONAL STAFF AS WELL AS RAISING THE SALARY OF PARTY LEADER RODRIGUE BIRON (WHO YESTERDAY SUGGESTED THAT PQ GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPLOIT ITS MARCH TOWARD INDEPENDENCE SO AS TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS.)

8. COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
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